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William C. Nelson to Maria C. Nelson (4 May 1864)

William Cowper Nelson

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Head Qrs, Harris' Brigade
Near Orange C, H. Va. April

My Dear Father;
Yours of the 1st March, reached me to-day, yours letter from Macon, I received some time since, and the one sent by Adj^t Peck, came safely to hand last week, also the money and articles sent by him, all of which are very acceptable, do not send the rest until you have a good opportunity, my other will do until June or July.

We are expecting daily to receive marching orders, all superfluous baggage has been sent to the rear, and Waggons have been prepared of Fauquier & Culpeper Counties, for General Lee's express use, it is thought by some however that we will fall back to the vicinity of Richmond, or rather to Hanover Junction, Grant has assumed command of the Army of the Potomac, and will probably advance upon Richmond by two or three different routes.

column
One, up the Peninsula, under Burnside and
Butter, the main ~~army~~ crossing the
Rappahannock between here and
Fredericksburg, while a third col-
umn will advance down the valley
under Milroy and Sigel; Longstreet
is reported to be on his way up
here, he can keep that column in
check, We can manage Grant
here, and Beauregard will prob-
ably come up from Charleston,
and meet Mr Burnside ere
he reaches Richmond, I have
no fears as to the result of the
campaign, and I am of opinion
that our success this summer will
put an end to the war, it
will probably linger through
the Fall, But if we give

Grant a crushing blow, they can
never organize another Army, it is
only by the most strenuous efforts
that they can now get together a
large Army; their whole force in
Virginia now, is not near so many
as McClellan had on the Peninsula
in the summer of '62, Our army
it is true is not so large either, as
it was then, but with the addition
of Beauregard and Longstreet,
it will be, I think sufficiently
powerful to whip back any force the
Enemy can bring against us,

Our Army never was in better con-
dition or spirits, and more deter-
mined to battle for their rights,
trusting in the God of Battles and
in the Righteousness of our cause,
It is not the boastful confidence in
our own strength, which we had in the

Pennsylvania campaign, but a calm
trustfulness in our ability, through the
blessing of God, to put at naught the
wicked plans of the enemy for our
destruction.

Yesterday I heard the Rev. Mr. Nelson
from Hanover, preach at the Episcopal
Church in Orange. I spoke to him after
service, he knows Mr. Robt. Nelson, and
others of our family, although he
belongs to another branch I believe.

The weather has been extremely bad
here for the past two weeks and Grants
may be delayed some by the mud
and high water, but a week hence
will find us moving I expect.

I received a letter from Kimbark a few
days ago, he tells me, he is to be
married the 2nd of this month.

Love to all Friends,

Your affectionate Son
W. C. Nelson,